

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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TAGS: PFOR, MILI, RH, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CONSCRIPTION U. S. MISSIONARY DEPENDENTS

1. DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE TO U. S. MISSIONARY GROUPS ON SUBJECT RHODESIAN CONSCRIPTION OF DEPENDENTS ROUGHLY PARALLELS THAT WHICH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED TO LOCAL GROUPS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT DEPARTURE OF DRAFT AGE DEPENDENTS MIGHT WELL TRIGGER RETALIATION/HARRASSMENT BY RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES, MOST GROUPS SEEM TO FEEL THIS AN ACCEPTABLE RISK AND PREFERABLE TO HAVING DEPENDENTS CONSCRIPTED INTO RHODESIAN MILITARY.

2. ON SUBJECT OF EFFECT OF CONSCRIPTED SERVICE IN RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES ON U. S. CITIZENSHIP, WE HAVE ADVISED U. S. MISSIONARY GROUPS THAT IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DEPENDENT IS UNABLE TO LEAVE RHODESIA OR OTHERWISE AVOID CONSCRIPTION, SIMPLE PRUDENCE WOULD INDICATE THAT A CLEAR RECORD BE ESTABLISHED THAT ANY RESULTANT MILITARY SERVICE WAS INVOLUNTARY.

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3. FYI: SECTION OF INA CONCERNING LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR ENTERING OR SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF A FOREIGN STATE (SECTION 349(3) OR 8USC 1481(A)(3) IS CONSIDERED OF DOUBTFUL CONSTITUTIONALITY AS A RESULT OF A 1967 SUPREME COURT DECISION (AFROYIM V. RUSK, 387 U. S.

253) INVOLVING LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR VOTING IN POLITICAL ELECTIONS IN A FOREIGN STATE - SUBPARAGRAPH (5) OF THE SAME LAW. IN A 5-4 DECISION, THE COURT HELD THAT AMERICANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR CITIZENSHIP ABSENT THEIR CONSENT. END FYI. KISSINGER

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